

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 06335 201617Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IO-13 SSM-05 AID-05

DHA-02 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-02 MCT-01

SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SCA-01 /109 W

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P R 201507Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9652

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 6335

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 20 SYRIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCE FAILURE OF SECOND CHTAURA MEETING

1. SYRIAN MEDIA FEATURED FAILURE OF SECOND CHTAURA MEETING HELD SEPT. 19 AND SEPARATE MEETINGS PRES. ASAD HELD WITH PRES-ELECT SARKIS, FONMIN KARAME AND IMAM MUSA SADR. PRESS BANNERED: "PRESIDENTS ASAD AND SARKIS REVIEW OUTCOME OF CONTACTS AND EFFORTS FOR SETTling CRISIS. CHTAURA MEETING FAILS IN REACHING UNIFIED CONCEPTION. GEN. JAMIL -- 'NO POSITIVE RESUTLS WERE REACHED, AND SYRIA WILL CONTINUE IN ITS POSITIVE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND OBSTRUCT PLOTTERS.'" UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 06335 201617Z

AF COMMANDER JAMIL TOLD NEWSMEN AT CONCLUSION OF NEARLY

THREE-HOUR SESSION AMONG HIMSELF, SARKIS AND ARAFAT THAT ANOTHER MEETING WOULD BE HELD SEPT. 24. HE PLEDGED THAT SYRIA WOULD CONTINUE ITS "PRINCIPLED STAND" TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS WITHIN CONTEXT OF MAINTAINING LEBANON'S UNITY AND SAFEGUARDING PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

2. AL MEDIATOR, DR. KHOLI ANNOUNCED THAT ASF HAD COMPLETED FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPT. 23 CEREMONY IN WHICH SARKIS WILL TAKE OATH OF OFFICE. HE ASSERTED THAT, "ALL PARTIES WHOM WE CONTACTED EMPHASIZED THEIR DESIRE FOR SUCCESS OF CEREMONY."

3. ASAD MET WITH SARKIS MORNING SEPT. 19 FOLLOWING PRES-ELECT'S VISIT TO CAIRO AT INVITATION PRES. SADAT. MEETING LASTED HOUR AND HALF, DURING WHICH THEY REVIEWED SITUATION IN LEBANON AND OUTCOME OF CURRENT CONTACTS AND EFFORTS TO SETTLE CRISIS. SARKIS THEN DEPARTED FOR CHTAURA, AND AT CONCLUSION OF THIS MEETING RETURNED TO BEIRUT VIA RAYAQ AIRFILED, WHERE HE SEEN OFF BY JAMIL, COL. KHOULI AND OFFICERS OF LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS. IN AFTERNOON ASAD MET WITH IMAM MUSA SADR TO DISCUSS LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND IN EVENING RECEIVED PRIMIN KARAME UPON LATTER'S RETURN FROM TAIF.

4. PRESS REPORTED THAT FIGHTING WAS RENEWED PREVIOUS DAY WHILE SARKIS EXERTING ADDITIONAL EFFORTS TO REACH FORMULA FOR SETTLING CRISIS. CLASHES REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE ALONG BUFFER LINE IN BEIRUT, IN MOUNTAINS EAST OF BEIRUT AND IN TRIPOLI.

5. AL-BAATH PUBLISHED STATEMENT BY CTHOLIC PATRIARCH MAXIMOS HAKIM IN WHICH HE DENOUNCED WESTERN MEDIA FOR PORTRAYING LEBANESE CRISIS AS "CONFESSIONAL STRIFE." HAKIM ASSERTED THIS WAS ATTEMPT TO SERVE ZIONIST AIMS BY DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

6. PRESS NOTED THAT PRES. FRANGIE ADDRESSED FAREWELL MESSAGE TO LEBANESE PEOPLE.

7. COMMENT: PUBLICITY GIVEN KHOLI'S STATEMENT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DAMASC 06335 201617Z

TO FRANGIE'S FAREWELL ADDRESS REFLECTS CONTINUED OPTIMISM HERE THAT FRANGIE-SARKIS TRANSITION WILL PROCEED ON SCHEDULE.  
MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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